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Message Text

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1909
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02367

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E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: AORG, APER
SUBJECT: UN PERSONNEL: PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENTS - UN, GENEVA

REFS: (A) STATE 136564, (B) VIENNA O5O27

1. UK DEPUTY PERMREP (MERVYN BROWN) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR WELLS JUNE 7 TO INFORM HER OF RESULTS OF HIS MEETING JUNE 6 WITH GEORGE DAVIDSON ON VARIOUS PERSONNEL MATTERS AND SPECIFICALLY ON PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF DNEPROVSKY TO UNOG. IN ABSENCE OF ANY GROUNDSWELL OF MAJOR WESTERN CONTRIBUTORS AND REFUSAL OF FRENCH AND FRG TO JOIN IN DEMARCHE TO SYG ON A D-1 APPOINTMENT, PURSUANT TO OUR INSTRUCTIONS, UK TOOK LEAD IN ARRANGING A UK/US MEETING WITH DAVIDSON. APPOINTMENT CAME AT SHORT NOTICE, PROMPTING BROWN TO SUGGEST WE GO SEPARATELY. AMBASSADOR WELLS SEEING DAVIDSON JUNE 8; FULL REPORT WILL BE SENT ADDRESSEES.

2. BROWN SAID HE TOLD DAVIDSON THE BRITISH PRESS WOULD
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HAVE QUITE A FIELD DAY IF THEY GOT WIND OF THE INTENDED APPOINTMENT OF DNEPROVSKY TO SENSITIVE PERSONNEL POST IN GENEVA AT THE SAME TIME A HIGH RANKING SOVIET (IVANKO) WAS SERVING IN NEW YORK AS DIRECTOR FOR PERSONNEL POLICY COORDINATION AND, IN ABSENCE OF ASYG GHERAB, IS ACTING HEAD OF THE UN OFFICE OF PERSONNEL SERVICES. BROWN EMPHASIZED WHAT A BAD PRESS COULD DO

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TO OTHER MEMBERS AS WELL. DAVIDSON INDICATED THAT HE HAD CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY THE STRENGTHENING OF A SOVIET PERSONNEL ENCLAVE. IN ALL HONESTY HE HAD TO RECOGNIZE THAT IN FACT IVANKO WAS ABOUT THE BEST PERSON HE HAD IN PERSONNEL. DAVIDSON ALSO SPOKE FAVORABLY OF DNEPROVSKY'S PROFESSIONALISM AND PERFORMANCE FROM FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE. HE HAD DISCUSSED DNEPROVSKY'S POTENTIAL APPOINTMENT VERY CAREFULLY WITH RUEDAS (SPAIN), DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES IN GENEVA. RUEDAS INFORMED DAVIDSON THAT HE FELT HE COULD HANDLE THE SITUATION SHOULD DNEPROVSKY BE NAMED CHIEF OF THE PERSONNEL DIVISION.

3. BROWN MENTIONED THAT THE US WAS EQUALLY CONCERNED AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE SPEAKING TO THIS MATTER. BROWN THEN REFERRED TO THE FRENCH CONCERN (WHICH WAS THE SOLE CONCERN THE FRENCH WOULD PERMIT BE MENTIONED) OF DNEPROVSKY'S LACK OF FRENCH. DAVIDSON SAID GHERAB HAD ACCEPTED THIS, STATING HE DID NOT FEEL THAT FRENCH WAS ALL THAT NECESSARY. DAVIDSON WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE FRENCH SHOULD TAKE THIS UP WITH GHERAB DIRECTLY IF THEY FELT THAT STRONGLY ABOUT IT SINCE D-1 APPOINT-MENTS WERE IN HIS HANDS AND SHOULD THEY CONVINCE GHERAB, THEN DNEPROVSKY WOULD NOT BE APPOINTED. BROWN SAID THERE WAS NO SUGGESTION OF WALDHEIM PRESSURE OR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER.
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4. MISOFF INFORMED BROWN OF FRENCH MISSION INFORMATION THAT WALDHEIM WAS CHOOSING DNEPROVSKY FOR THE JOB TO COUNTER AND COPE WITH GENEVA HARD-LINERS ON SALARY ISSUES, ETC. BROWN HAD NOT HEARD THIS AND SAID DAVIDSON MADE NO REFERENCE TO IT.

5. DISCUSSION ENSUED ON LIKELY CANDIDATES SHOULD DNEPROVSKY BE ABANDONED. WHEN BROWN PROFESSED LACK OF IDEAS MISOFF SURFACED NAME OF GEOFFREY HOLMES. BROWN REITERATED THEIR PREVIOUSLY KNOWN PLANS FOR THE DIRECTORSHIP OF DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION SERVICES IN UNIDO FOR HOLMES.

6. AMB. WELLS ASKED BROWN'S VIEWS RE SUCCESSOR IN DNEPROVSKY'S NEW YORK JOB SHOULD END RESULT BE HIS TRANSFER TO GENEVA; BROWN HAD NOT GIVEN THOUGHT TO NECESSARY INSISTENCE THAT HE NOT BE SUCCEEDED BY SAME NATIONALITY. YOUNG

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